

A Guide to Starting a Lincoln Library



A Guide to Starting a Lincoln Library

Hundreds of newcomers annually join the ranks of the Lincoln book collectors. Whether they own two books or two thousand books, each shares an interest in the life and times of the Martyred Sixteenth President.

For most persons, collecting Lincoln books becomes a hobby closely allied with their interest in Lincoln as a historical subject. But some are bibliophiles—they love books simply because they are books. Others buy books on speculation, hoping to realize a profit from investing in rare Lincolniana. Whatever one's reason for collecting Lincoln books, all agree that the number of books, pamphlets, and articles on the Lincoln theme is staggering.

As early as 1865, William V. Spencer published *Lincolniana*—the first bibliography of works on Lincoln. “Whatever relates to our Martyr-President,” wrote Spencer, “possesses undying interest.” Spencer’s list included 270 items, mostly

sermons and eulogies issued as pamphlets. In the following year, John Russell Bartlett listed approximately 300 sermons, orations, and poems on Lincoln in his *Catalogue of the Books and Pamphlets Relating to the Civil War in the United States*. A more comprehensive assemblage of works on Lincoln, including almost 900 items, appeared in 1870. This volume, *A Memorial Lincoln Bibliography*, by Andrew Boyd and Charles H. Hart, showed the number of copies of each item printed and, for sermons, the text selected by the clergyman.

In 1906 Judge Daniel Fish of Minneapolis published his monumental *Lincoln Bibliography*—comprised of 1,106 items. Fish helped bring order to the Lincoln field by carefully defining the term “Lincolniana” to include essentially only printed books and pamphlets relating distinctly to Lincoln. Fish also was the first Lincoln bibliographer to number the entries on his list, which immediately became the yardstick by which Lincoln book collectors measured their holdings. Despite the thoroughness of Fish’s bibliography, it was rendered out-of-date in 1925 by J. B. Oakleaf’s famous *Lincoln Bibliography*. So many new Lincoln titles surfaced after the Lincoln centennial in 1909, that Oakleaf was able to add 1,576 Lincoln entries to Fish’s once authoritative list. But Oakleaf’s listing, too, soon was surpassed.

In 1929 the Lincoln National Life Foundation (forerunner of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum) began publishing a list of Lincolniana in *Lincoln Lore*. This provides students and collectors with up-to-date listings of Lincoln books. Taking advantage of the citations printed in *Lincoln Lore*—as well as the labors of previous Lincoln bibliographers—in 1945 Jay Monaghan published what today ranks as the foremost compilation of Lincolniana. In his *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939*, Monaghan listed chronologically 3,958 Lincoln items. By consulting Monaghan for books and pamphlets published prior to 1940, and by using the *Lincoln Lore* bibliography for titles since 1939, the modern collector of Lincolniana can be assured of locating almost every printed work on the Sixteenth President.

The following list of eighty Lincoln titles is selective. From among the thousands of Lincoln works the staff of the Library and Museum have chosen those of special value to the broad range of Lincoln students. The volumes cited here have earned a reputation for accuracy, comprehensiveness, and overall balance. The list will serve as an able nucleus around which the new collector can begin to build a great collection. Whenever possible, editions still in print have been listed in favor of those no longer available.

LINCOLNIANA



DANIEL FISH COLLECTION

Pioneer Lincoln collector and bibliographer Daniel Fish used this bookplate to identify volumes in his famous library. The Fish collection later formed the nucleus of the 20,000-volume Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Angle, Paul M. *A Shelf of Lincoln Books: A Critical, Selective Bibliography of Lincolniana*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1946.

Monaghan, Jay. *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939*. 2 vols. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1945. *Available from the Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield.*

REFERENCE/ENCYCLOPEDIC WORKS

Miers, Earl Schenck, ed. *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology*. 3 vols. Washington: Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1960.

Shaw, Archer H. *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1950. *Lincoln quotations arranged by subject.*

BOOKS ABOUT LINCOLN BOOKS

Basler, Roy P. *The Lincoln Legend*. New York: Octagon Books, 1969; orig. pub., 1935.

Donald, David. *Lincoln's Herndon*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948.

Thomas, Benjamin P. *Portrait for Posterity*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1947.

LINCOLN PERIODICALS

The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly. 1940-1952.
Lincoln Herald. 1937-
The Lincoln Log. 1975-
Lincoln Lore. 1929-

LINCOLN'S LETTERS AND PAPERS

Basler, Roy P., ed. *Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1962; orig. pub., 1946.

Basler, Roy P., ed. *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. 9 vols. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1953. *Supplement, 1832-1865*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1974.

Williams, T. Harry, ed. *Selected Writings and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln*. Chicago: Packard and Company, 1943.

ONE-VOLUME BIOGRAPHIES

Herndon, William H. and Weik, Jesse W. *Herndon's Life of Lincoln*. Angle, Paul M., ed. Cleveland: World Publishing Company, 1965; orig. pub. in three volumes, 1889. *Controversial pioneer work by Lincoln's law partner.*

Luthin, Reinhard H. *The Real Abraham Lincoln*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1960.

Oates, Stephen B. *With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Harper and Row, 1977.

Thomas, Benjamin P. *Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952. *Generally considered the best one-volume work.*

MULTI-VOLUME BIOGRAPHIES

Beveridge, Albert J. *Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1858*. 2 vols. Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1928. *Still the most comprehensive account of Lincoln's early years.*

Nicolay, John G. and Hay, John. *Abraham Lincoln: A History*. 10 vols. New York: The Century Company, 1890. *By Lincoln's private secretaries and approved by his son — therefore, "official" administration history.*

Randall, J. G. and Current, Richard N. *Lincoln the President*. 4 vols. New

York: Dodd, Mead, and Company,
1945-1955. *The finest modern study.*

COLLECTIONS OF ESSAYS

Current, Richard N. *The Lincoln Nobody Knows*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1958.

Donald, David. *Lincoln Reconsidered*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956.

Lewis, Lloyd. *Myths After Lincoln*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Company, 1929.

Randall, J. G. *Lincoln the Liberal Statesman*. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company, 1947.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Bishop, Jim. *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1955.
For teenagers.

Coolidge, Olivia. *The Apprenticeship of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1974. *For teenagers.*

———. *The Statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. *For teenagers.*

Monjo, F.N. *Gettysburg: Tad Lincoln's Story*. New York: Windmill Books, 1976.

Phelan, Mary Kay. *Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural Journey*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1972.

LINCOLN FAMILY GENEALOGY AND THE KENTUCKY YEARS

Lincoln, Waldo. *History of the Lincoln Family*. Worcester: Commonwealth Press, 1923.

Warren, Louis A. *Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood*. New York: The Century Company, 1926.

INDIANA

Warren, Louis A. *Lincoln's Youth: Indiana Years, Seven to Twenty-one, 1816-1830*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1959.

ILLINOIS

Angle, Paul M. "*Here I Have Lived*": *A History of Lincoln's Springfield*. Chicago: Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 1971; orig. pub., 1935.

Baringer, William E. *Lincoln's Vandalia*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1949.

Thomas, Benjamin P. *Lincoln's New Salem*. Springfield: The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1934.

LAWYER

Duff, John J. A. *Lincoln: Prairie Lawyer*. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1960.

Frank, John P. *Lincoln as a Lawyer*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1961.

PREPRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

Fehrenbacher, Don E. *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1962.

Jaffa, Harry V. *Crisis of the House Divided: An Interpretation of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1973; orig. pub., 1959.

Riddle, Donald W. *Congressman Abraham Lincoln*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1957.

Simon, Paul. *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative*

Years. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.

ELECTION OF 1860

Luthin, Reinhard H. *The First Lincoln Campaign*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1944.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Baringer, William E. *A House Dividing: Lincoln as President Elect*. Springfield: The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1945.

Potter, David M. *Lincoln and His Party in the Secession Crisis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1942.

CIVIL WAR: POLITICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Carman, Harry J. and Luthin, Reinhard H. *Lincoln and the Patronage*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1943.

Hendrick, Burton J. *Lincoln's War Cabinet*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1946.

Hesseltine, William B. *Lincoln and the War Governors*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948.

Williams, T. Harry. *Lincoln and the Radicals*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1960; orig. pub., 1941.

CIVIL WAR: CONSTITUTIONAL

Randall, J. G. *Constitutional Problems Under Lincoln*. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1926.

Silver, David M. *Lincoln's Supreme Court*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1956.

CIVIL WAR: MUSIC

Bernard, Kenneth A. *Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War*. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, 1966.

CIVIL WAR: JOURNALISM

Harper, Robert S. *Lincoln and the Press*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951.

CIVIL WAR: MILITARY

Bruce, Robert V. *Lincoln and the Tools of War*. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956.

Williams, Kenneth P. *Lincoln Finds a General*. 5 vols. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1949-1959.

Williams, T. Harry. *Lincoln and His Generals*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952.

CIVIL WAR: AFRO-AMERICANS & INDIANS

Franklin, John Hope. *The Emancipation Proclamation*. New York: Doubleday, 1963.

Nichols, David A. *Lincoln and the Indians*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1978.

Quarles, Benjamin. *Lincoln and the Negro*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1962.

CIVIL WAR: DIPLOMATIC

Monaghan, Jay. *Diplomat in Carpet Slippers*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1945.

Van Deusen, Glyndon G. *William Henry Seward*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.

ELECTION OF 1864

Zornow, William F. *Lincoln and the Party Divided*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1972; orig. pub., 1954.

WASHINGTON DURING LINCOLN'S ADMINISTRATIONS

Leech, Margaret. *Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1941.

RECONSTRUCTION

McCarthy, Charles H. *Lincoln's Plan of Reconstruction*. New York: McClure, Phillips, & Company, 1901.

McCrary, Peyton. *Abraham Lincoln and Reconstruction: The Louisiana Experiment*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.

ASSASSINATION

Borreson, Ralph. *When Lincoln Died*. New York: Appleton-Century, 1965.

Bryan, George S. *The Great American Myth*. New York: Carrick & Evans, 1940.

FUNERAL

Kunhardt, Dorothy and Kunhardt, Philip. *Twenty Days: A Narrative in Text and Pictures of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Harper and Row, 1965.

ECONOMICS

Boritt, G. S. *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream*. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1978.

Pratt, Harry E. *The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*. Springfield: The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1943.

RELIGION

Wolf, William J. *Lincoln's Religion*. Philadelphia: Pilgrim Press, 1970; orig. pub., 1959 as *The Almost Chosen People*.

TEMPERANCE

Townsend, William H. *Lincoln and Liquor*. New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1934.

MARY TODD LINCOLN

Randall, Ruth P. *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1953.

Turner, Justin G. and Turner, Linda Levitt, eds. *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Hamilton, Charles and Ostendorf, Lloyd. *Lincoln in Photographs: An Album of Every Known Pose*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963.

Lorant, Stefan. *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1969; orig. pub., 1952.

CARTOONS

Wilson, Rufus Rockwell. *Lincoln in Caricature*. New York: Horizon Press, 1953.

PORTRAITS

Wilson, Rufus Rockwell. *Lincoln in Portraiture*. New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1935.

SCULPTURE

Bullard, F. Lauriston. *Lincoln in Marble and Bronze*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1952.

Durman, Donald Charles. *He Belongs to the Ages: The Statues of Abraham Lincoln*. Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, 1951.

EX-LIBRIS



JOSEPH BENJAMIN
OAKLEAF

In 1925, the year of the publication of his *Lincoln Bibliography*, J. B. Oakleaf owned the largest private collection of Lincolniana extant. This bookplate identified volumes in his library. For many years the Lincoln field was dominated by five collectors: Oakleaf, Fish, and three others—Charles W. McLellan, Judd Stewart, and William H. Lambert. The “Big Five” popularized the collection of Lincolniana and systematized classification and cataloging procedures.



THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801